

**Statement by the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran as
Explanation of Vote against the decision entitled “Addressing the
Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syria Arab
Republic” Adopted at the 94th Session of the Executive Council**

Mr. Chairperson,

Once again another step towards further divergence in the Council and the Organization is taken.

The illegal mandate of the IIT, i.e. attribution and identification of the perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, which is just a chapter of a two-year terrible political saga, is accomplished now. The States Parties that developed the whole game plan now headed for the next step, namely adoption of another tough and inappropriate decision against Syria, which itself is another chapter of this premeditated scenario. My delegation is very familiar with such evil activities since the same States Parties have formulated similar political game plan in other organizations against the Syrian Arab Republic. From the beginning it was crystal clear that the attribution was supposed to be conducted against Syria since the terrorist groups were out of context and have never ever been accountable and were also supported financially and logistically by certain States Parties.

It is a matter of serious concern that despite significant cooperation by the Syrian Arab Republic to destroy all its 27 chemical weapons production facilities as reported by the Director General, an unfounded and unjustified politically-motivated draft decision has been tabled by certain group of States Parties which would undermine sincere efforts by Syria aimed at the realization of the object and purpose of the

convention. The drafters had recourse to challenging and political mechanisms such as IIT and JIM in lieu of the existing alternatives in the Convention. It should be also noted that the decision ignored so far 79 monthly reports submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic to the OPCW, several rounds of meetings between Syrian authorities and Technical Secretariat, a large amount of information provided by Syria, visits and other activities done in constant cooperation with the Syrian authorities and officials. Such a negative, antagonistic and hostile approach in such a decision is not constructive as it causes further divergence among the States Parties.

The continuing destructive and unproductive trend that is followed by certain States Parties and started from the 4th Special Session of the Conference of States Parties on 26 June 2018 will not be of use for the chemical disarmament and international peace and security. This will turn the Organization into a battlefield of unfruitful disputes among the States Parties and consequently the cause of a world devoid of chemical weapons will turn to be an unattainable dream. Undoubtedly, the States Parties which made this Organization a tool for their temporary political and geopolitical interests should bear the burden of guilt. We request the Members of the Organization to take notice seriously that the fabricated mechanism which is not in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and is illegally applied against Syria as one of the members of this Organization may also be used against the other States Parties which are now accompanying the policies of the certain States Parties sponsoring the decision.

My delegation voted against the draft Decision because of the following reasons:

-the Decision is mostly based on the first report of the IIT which has not been created through the procedure stipulated in the provisions of the

Chemical Weapons Convention and its establishment and mandate are not consistent with the Convention. Its report is also based upon unreliable open sources and invalid information and the chain of custody has not been conducted appropriately in the work of IIT.

-The Decision is not balanced since the drafters have not considered a huge amount of efforts made by the Syrian Arab Republic in cooperation with the Technical Secretariat and ignored the reports of the Director-General in this regard.

-The Decision is highly politically-motivated and may have adverse impact on the continuing cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Technical Secretariat.

-The drafters, by neglecting many factors and aspects involved in the territory of Syria as well as a long war-torn situation in that country, have placed the Syrian Arab Republic in a position to take the responsibility of incidents and activities that were not under its control and have forced Syria to fail to be able to take cooperative measures in the future.

The Decision has a hostile approach and is not fair and acceptable to my delegation.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session and posted on the OPCW's public website.